

73 in 2000 · 59 in 2001
19% Decrease

Narcotics Violations

Narcotics includes all incidents in which the police made an arrest, complaint, or warrant for the possession or distribution of illegal drugs. Narcotics statistics do not include all instances of narcotics use or distribution; they only reflect cases known to the police.

Narcotics Violations: Geographic Breakdown

Neighborhood	2 nd Q. 1999	2 nd Q. 2000	2 nd Q. 2001
East Cambridge	7	5	3
MIT	3	3	2
Inman/Harrington	4	3	9
Area 4	30	14	8
Cambridgeport	22	16	5
Mid-Cambridge	11	9	9
Riverside	7	6	4
Agassiz	1	0	0
Peabody	3	3	6
West Cambridge	3	7	3
North Cambridge	6	5	8
Cambridge Highlands	1	1	2
Strawberry Hill	0	1	0

The second quarter of 2001 witnessed at least 59 separate incidents involving the use, sale, or possession of illegal drugs. Fifty-five of these incidents resulted in the arrest of 69 individuals, aged 16 to 49. Forty-three percent of these arrestees were from Cambridge, whereas others were primarily from areas just outside the city (i.e., Medford, Everett, and varied parts of Boston.) A mere 10% of the 69 were female, and all were arrested on charges of *possession*, only.

From 1999, drug incidents dropped dramatically (40%), due in part to the extensive efforts put forth by the Special Investigations Unit. In the wake of 1999's major drug crackdown, the S.I.U. continued to effect a large percent of the city's narcotics arrests.

As clearly indicated by the figures above, drug incidents were clustered about the city's mid-section

throughout '99 and '00. Not only did numbers significantly drop in the second quarter of '01, they also became more evenly dispersed throughout the city's neighborhoods.

Drug possession accounted for **over 90%** of drug arrests. (*possession*, alone, claimed 60% of all arrests, whereas *possession with the intent to distribute* totaled 31%.) The remaining arrests were attributed to *drug trafficking* (primarily that of crack/cocaine), *conspiracy to violate the Controlled Substance Act*, and *the sale of narcotics within 1000 ft. of a school zone*.

As usual, marijuana was the favored drug among arrestees, 43% of whom were arrested for possession of the drug (with or without intent to distribute.) About 24% of total arrests were attributed to the possession of cocaine/crack, and only 3% were due to the possession of a hypodermic needle.

Drug Tip Hotline

*The Special Investigations Unit employs an anonymous Drug Tip Hotline to gain intelligence information from the community. The Unit can be reached by calling 617-349-3359. Generally, you will be greeted by a taped message instructing you to leave very detailed information. **You do not have to provide any personal information and all information is held in***

187 in 2000 · 189 in 2001
1% increase

Fraud and Forgery

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting System does not include fraud, false pretenses, forgery, embezzlement, and confidence games among larceny. Yet in many cases, fraud is a much more serious crime than theft. Victims of check forgery and "con" games stand to lose thousands of dollars. Often added to this loss is the personal humiliation that accompanies being "duped" by a "con man." The confidence game crook, a particularly crafty breed of criminal who has no qualms with deceiving his victims face-to-face, expects (often correctly) that his victim's embarrassment will deter him or her from reporting the crime to the police.

In the first half of 2001, there were 189 incidents of fraud and forgery reported in Cambridge, compared to 187 in the first half of 2000. This 1% increase is due mostly to incidents of forgery. This marks the second year in a row that first half numbers for fraud and forgery have gone up. These incidents are broken down as follows:

- **Counterfeiting:** There were three reports of phony money registered in Cambridge during the second quarter of 2001.

- **Application:** Two of these crimes were reported in the first half of this year. Both of the incidents involve opening accounts under false names, such as credit card and cell phone accounts. One of the events has been traced to New York/ New Jersey area.

- **Bad Check:** The writing of checks on insufficient funds or closed accounts. The Cambridge Police took 21 reports for this crime in the first six months of 2001, though most “bounced” checks are not reported as criminal incidents, particularly if it seems to be an innocent mistake.

- **Forged Check:** 20 crimes involved the use of a lost or stolen check, with the offender forging the victim’s signature. Compared to the 31 reported incidents in 2000, this is one of the two crimes with the greatest decreases in the first half.

Crime	First Half 2000	First Half 2001
Counterfeiting	2	3
Forgery/Uttering	131	147
Application	(6)	(2)
Bad Check	(21)	(21)
Forged Check	(31)	(20)
ATM/Credit Card	(73)	(66)
Embezzlement	29	9
Con Games	17	15
Big Carrot	(2)	(4)
Utility Impostor	(0)	(1)
Pigeon Drop	(2)	(0)
Charity	(1)	(1)
Psychic	(2)	(0)
Miscellaneous	(10)	(5)
Identity Theft	7	15

- **ATM/Credit Card Fraud:** 66 incidents of the use of a lost or stolen credit or ATM card, compared to 76 in 2000. This crime has become more popular with the proliferation of “check cards.” The Galleria is a hot spot for this crime, even though it has decreased 10% from last year.

- **Embezzlement:** A situation in which an employee takes advantage of his position for his own financial gain, re-diverting company funds or property to himself. Only 9 were reported in the first half of 2001, compared to a whopping 29 during 2000. This crime records one of the largest decreases of all in this category. The Crime Analysis Unit is seeing more and more incidents of “blue collar embezzlement” in which store clerks—often juveniles—take the day’s deposits or a selection of merchandise. Galleria and Harvard Square stores are affected most.

“Con” Games: We had 15 swindles, con games or flim flams in the first six months of 2001, compared to 17 in 2000. **The “Big Carrot Scam”** which had surfaced in 1999, occurred twice during the first quarter of 2001 and reemerged in the second quarter with an additional two incidents. Unfortunately, no arrests were made as a result of these scams. All four of these incidents involved suspects posing as employees of such stores as Best Buy and Sears, claiming they could produce overstocked laptop computers at a low cost. Victims would meet these men at locations near the Galleria, exchange money often exceeding \$1,000, and then never see the suspects again.

412 in 2000 · 525 in 2001
27% increase

Malicious Destruction

Vandalism, or malicious destruction of property, includes tire-slashing, window-smashing, spray-painting, and myriad other crimes in which someone’s property is willfully and maliciously damaged. It is the most commonly reported crime in Cambridge, yet we suspect that vandalism is one of the most underreported crimes; residents and businesses frequently ignore “minor” incidents of vandalism and graffiti.

There were significant changes in the number of malicious destruction incidents reported in the first six months of 2001, or in the majority of neighborhoods, in comparison to last year's totals that mostly remained the same when compared with the previous year.

Due to a recent trend of graffiti in certain neighborhoods, some of the neighborhoods reported an increase – some slight, some dramatic – while others reported decreases – both slight and dramatic. Many areas' numbers doubled for malicious destruction, due to the graffiti problem. One main spree was reported in Harvard Square:

Neighborhood	2 nd Q. 1999	2 nd Q. 2000	2 nd Q. 2001
East Cambridge	59	33	50
MIT	5	10	4
Inman/Harrington	38	25	37
Area 4	41	57	60
Cambridgeport	45	59	58
Mid-Cambridge	37	43	52
Riverside	38	42	47
Agassiz	16	11	11
Peabody	34	29	55
West Cambridge	29	36	61
North Cambridge	61	41	68
Cambridge Highlands	6	11	6
Strawberry Hill	10	15	16

- Over 20 businesses in the West Cambridge area, specifically the Harvard Square area, were tagged with acid-like paint on the business glass windows during the middle of May. All of the businesses and retail stores were hit on the same night. No suspects have been identified.
- In various locations all over Cambridge, many city walls, street, etc., have been spray painted with 'tags' (graffiti-like symbols/letters/language identifiable by a certain group of individuals – usually the 'taggers' themselves). Residential homes, apartment buildings, and motor vehicles have also fallen victim to this crime.

Of the 525 malicious destruction incidents reported thus far in 2001, most were related to the malicious destruction of cars (169 incidents), businesses (40 incidents), and houses (45 incidents). Tire slashings account for 47 incidents while graffiti at various locations in Cambridge accounted for 122 incidents.

70 in 2000 · 39 in 2001
44% decrease

Sex Offenses

The term "sex offenses" refers to six offenses of a sexual nature, not including rape, which is a Part I crime

Prostitution and Solicitation

Crime	2 nd Q. 2000	2 nd Q. 2001
Prostitution & Solicitation	2	0
Indecent Assault	11	7
Indecent Exposure	16	14
Peeping & Spying	10	4
Annoying & Accosting	15	7
Obscene Phone Calls	16	7

Prostitution is most commonly associated with "streetwalking"—that is, prostitutes working the street corners looking for clients to pick them up in cars. This type of prostitution has long been considered a sign of urban decay and social disorganization. Consequently, the Cambridge Police Department's Special Investigations Unit has aggressively targeted both "streetwalkers" and "johns" over the past decade with seasonal stings. Their efforts have nearly eradicated the presence of visible streetwalking in the city of Cambridge.

On March 10, 2000, the Special Investigations Unit targeted two "escort services" operating in Cambridge. "Employees" of both services agreed to meet undercover detectives at the Marriott Hotel in Cambridge Center. When the "escorts" started quoting prices for sexual favors, they were arrested.

Indecent Assault

Indecent assault involves the unwanted touching of one person by another in a private area or with sexual overtones. Incidents that show that the offender attempted or intended to rape the victim are counted as rapes, not as indecent assaults. In about 60% of incidents, the offender and victim know each other. There was a huge jump in the number of indecent assault crimes reported in 1999, however for the past two years the number has declined.

Indecent assault is categorized in a manner similar to rape. In the first half of 2001, incidents broke into the following categorizations:

- 3 **acquaintance** assaults, involving friends, co-workers, or other persons known by the victim. For example, a young girl was playing in a parking lot with a group of youths when two boys touched her in an indecent way and fled.
- 4 **“blitz”** assaults, in which the victim was suddenly grabbed by a stranger, usually while walking in a public place. All four blitz assaults occurred in the Central Square area. Arrests were made in two of the incidents.

Indecent Exposure

Indecent exposure crimes generally fall into three classifications: “flashers,” who deliberately expose themselves to unsuspecting passers-by; homeless or “street” people who urinate in public places (many of the “flashers” are homeless as well); and people who simply show no discretion in front of an open window or while sunbathing. When arrested, flashers are often intoxicated, under the influence of narcotics, or mentally disturbed.

The 14 incidents of indecent exposure resulted in four arrests. There were no “patterns,” as such, though the restrooms at MIT continue to be a hot spot for indecent activity, and Central Square holds the lion’s share of vagrant-related incidents.

Peeping & Spying

Peeping and spying offenders peer through the windows of houses or apartments, generally at night. There was one arrest for this crime on a summer eve in July, when a Somerville man was arrested after responding officers noticed him atop a North Cambridge garage with multiple pairs of binoculars. The neighbors had noticed the man looking in windows and called police, who arrested him on the spot.

Annoying & Accosting

“Annoying and Accosting a Member of the Opposite Sex” is a form of criminal harassment. Generally, it involves a man repeatedly following, shouting, making off-color suggestions, hooting, repeatedly asking for a date, or otherwise harassing a woman. It happens most often on the street and in the workplace. Each report involves an individual situation; the crime is not subject to geographic patterns.

Obscene Telephone Calls

Obscene telephone calls are as old as the telephone itself, though incidents have been declining for several years, thanks to innovations like Caller ID and advanced call tracing technology.

The 7 incidents of obscene telephone calls reported during the first half of 2001 do not show any patterns or trends; however, we suspect that this crime has a high underreporting factor.

Other Part II Crimes

Under the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, any actual crime not recorded as a Part I Crime is a Part II Crime. The relative infrequency of patterns and trends among these crimes discourages detailed analysis.

Crime	2 nd Q. 2000	2 nd Q. 2001
Disorderly Conduct	27	28
Drinking in Public	25	9
Annoying Phone Calls	119	86
Hit & Run Accidents	411	409
Kidnapping & Attempt. Kidnapping	2	1
Liquor Sale/ Possession Crimes	3	2
Operating Under the Influence	38	24
Threats to Commit a Crime	223	208
Traffic Arrests	104	78
Trespassing	50	30
Weapons Violations	4	3
Extortion/Blackmail	0	2

Some notes on these other Part II Crimes:

- The **Disorderly Conduct** count remained about the same since the first half of 2000, with most incidents occurring on weekend nights, in Central Square (32%) and Harvard Square (25%). At least 7 arrests took place along the 500 block of Mass Ave, most of which resulted from excessive drinking.
- **Public Drinking** arrests more than doubled between the first half of 1998 and 1999, due to the increased enforcement of public drinking statutes. In response to complaints by Central Square residents and business owners, enforcement continued throughout 2000 and the first half of 2001, leading to a 70% drop in arrests from 1999's Second Quarter.
- **Hit and run accidents** are often among the most commonly reported crimes in Cambridge. Of those reported within the first half of 2001, 5% involved injury to pedestrians, 22% involved damage to moving cars, 72% to parked cars, and 1% to other property.
- **Kidnapping** is one of the most chilling crimes. Fortunately, the single incident reported in the first half of 2001 was merely an attempt.
- Two **weapons violations** were reported at the same Cambridge Street address in late January/early February. These incidents included the illegal possession of a firearm and possession of bomb-making materials (later strategically removed by the Boston Bomb Squad).